

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127569
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13
SIG-03 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 PC-01 AID-05 OPR-02
A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SY-05
MCT-01 HA-05 /154 R

DRAFTED BY STF:WLSWING:RLKATES:PAD
APPROVED BY STF WALKER
S/S-O RCASTRODALE
AF:RMMOOSE
AF/P:RHOLLIDAY

-----039749 191258Z /45

O 191239Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127569

INFORM CONSULATES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS. CG

SUBJECT: KOLWEZI EVACUATION OPERATION, ZAIRE

1. GIVEN THE LIKELY GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE
KOLWEZI AIR EVACUATION OPERATION, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT
THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND AND GUIDANCE MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU.

2. IN VIEW OF THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN AREA OF
KOLWEZI, ZAIRE, WHERE 14 AMERICANS ARE STILL TRAPPED SINCE
AN INVADING FORCE BEGAN FIGHTING THERE ABOUT MAY 13, THE
UNITED STATES HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO
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A MULTILATERAL EFFORT TO PROTECT EXPATRIATES IN THE CONTESTED AREA. OUR SUPPORT TO THIS OPERATION IS AT THE REQUEST OF THE FRENCH, BELGIAN, AND ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENTS AND CONSISTS OF AIR LIFTING FUEL, SUPPLIES AND TROOPS TO DESTINATIONS IN ZAIRE OUTSIDE THE AREAS OF CONFLICT. ON MAY 17, SIXTY-SEVEN EMPLOYEES OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN'S ZAIRE COMPANY, CIS, WERE ABLE TO RE-LOCATE THEMSELVES FROM KOLWEZI TO AREAS OF

GREATER SAFETY. HOWEVER, SINCE THEN ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH KOLWEZI HAVE BEEN DOWN AND WE HAVE NO CURRENT INFORMATION ON THEIR WELFARE AND WELL-BEING NOR ANY INDICATIONS THAT THEY ARE NOT SAFE.

3. TALKING POINTS, THAT YOU MAY USE AT YOUR DISCRETION AND IN RESPONDING TO HOST GOVERNMENT APPROACHES ON THE QUESTION.

-- OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN IN THIS EVACUATION EFFORT IS THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CITIZENS IN KOLWEZI AND VICINITY, AS WELL AS OF ALL OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE AREA;

-- WHILE THE SUCCESSFUL RE-LOCATION ON MAY 17 OF 77 AMERICANS FROM KOLWEZI WAS A GREAT RELIEF TO THEIR FAMILIES AND TO US, AND ALLEVIATED SOME OF THE PRESSURE WE FACED, THERE REMAIN SOME 14 AMERICANS IN KOLWEZI.

-- WE ARE CONCERNED FOR THEIR WELFARE, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF INCREASING REPORTS OF VIOLENCE, LOOTING AND A GENERALLY DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION;

-- WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED, AS IT SHOULD BE AMONG FRIENDS, TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INFORM YOU BEFOREHAND OF OUR INTENTIONS. HOWEVER, WHEN IT IS A QUESTION OF THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON PLANNING ON OPERATIONS INVOLVING THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.

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-- OUR SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN THIS AIR RESCUE MISSION WAS ALSO UNDERTAKEN AT THE EXPLICIT REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE, WHICH IS CONCERNED OVER THE THREAT TO ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND COPPER/HYDROELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE BY THE INCURSIONS ACROSS ITS BORDERS.

-- WE ALSO TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE APPEAL BY THE OAU CHAIRMAN TO SUPPORT ZAIRE AGAINST THE CURRENT THREATS TO ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

4. AS APPROPRIATE WE WILL BE ROUTINELY PROVIDING YOU INFORMATIONAL PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR OUR NOON PRESS BRIEFINGS, TRANSCRIPTS OF PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THESE BRIEFINGS, AND PRESS ARTICLES. VANCE

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 /023 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:ARTHUR HUGHES

APPROVED BY STF:WLSWING

-----052618 200259Z /61

O 200235Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127569

FOL RPT STATE 127569 SENT ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
MAY 19, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127569

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TAGS: MOPS. CG

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: EVACUATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY LOGISTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2633083
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOLWEZI EVACUATION OPERATION, ZAIRE
TAGS: MOPS, MMOL, CG, US, FR, BE
To: AF POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e7d179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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